



Guatemala City, Guatemala

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DNA TESTING

2010

DNA genetic testing is at times suggested as the final means of confirming the biological relationship between a parent and a child for acquisition of citizenship purposes. It is not normally a requirement of the Embassy, and is only suggested in the most problematic of cases. DNA testing, when properly conducted, is virtually 100 percent accurate, and a positive result will assuage any doubt about the parentage of the child.

The Embassy maintains a list of laboratories in the U.S. that are accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) to perform genetic testing. The cost of the testing can vary, depending on which laboratory is used and whether or not the results are expedited. Fees normally range between \$600 and \$1,000, and the results are available between two and eight weeks after the laboratory receives the samples for analysis. **Costs for testing and related charges are borne by the family.**

One of the most important aspects of the testing process is the security of the samples taken from the two individuals. The chain of custody must be maintained from the moment the samples are taken by the physician until the kit arrives at the Embassy. Following the instructions below will ensure the validity of the test results.

- 1) The applicant or his/her guardian must contact the AABB-accredited laboratory in the U.S. to request that they send the testing kit to the Embassy. Authorized laboratories are as follows:

Clinical Testing and Research, Inc.

20 Wilsey Square
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
(201) 652-2088
Fax: (201) 652-2088

Paternity Testing Corporation

300 Portland Street
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 442-9948
Fax (573) 442-9870

Intelligenetics

24 New Orleans Rd., Suite 200
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
(843) 686-4455

Laboratory Corporation of America

P.O. Box 2230
1447 York Court
Burlington, NC 27216-2230
(800) 334-5161/(336) 584-5171
Fax (336) 538-6411

Orchid Gene Screen

2947 Eyde Parkway, Suite 110
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 349-3890
Fax (517) 349-6879

DNA Diagnostics Center

205 Corporate Court
Fairfield, OH 45014
(888) 362-2368
Fax (513) 881-7803

For a complete list of authorized laboratories visit:

[http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage Testing Accreditation Program/AABB Accredited Parentage Testing Laboratories](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage%20Testing%20Accreditation%20Program/AABB%20Accredited%20Parentage%20Testing%20Laboratories)

- 2) Payment must be made to the U.S. laboratory before the laboratory will send the DNA kit to the Embassy.
- 3) Once the Embassy receives the packet sent by the U.S. laboratory, we will contact an Embassy panel physician in Guatemala and then will contact you with instructions to attend the Embassy at the schedule set for the collection of the sample which will be done in the Embassy only.
- 4) The sample will be taken by an authorized laboratory technician at the U.S. Embassy in the presence of a consular officer. The consular officer will assemble and secure the package and return it by express courier to the U.S. laboratory.
- 5) If one of the individuals being tested resides in the United States, they should arrange to have the sample taken in the U.S. at a designated AABB testing site, lab, or clinic.
- 6) An original notification of the results will be sent directly to the Embassy, with a separate copy sent to the tested individuals. Once the Embassy has received its original copy, the case may proceed.

Any questions regarding DNA testing can be addressed to the Chief of American Citizens Services Unit at phone number (502)2326-4501 or to e-mail address:

amcitsguatemala@state.gov